

Stephen S. Stack '52

Cathedral Preparatory School

President's Hall of Fame



In 1934, Stephen S. Stack was the only child born to Stephen and Sophie (Baranowski) Stack. Born in Dupont, PA, Stephen had a lovely childhood. "It was very enchanting; we were able to play stick ball, billiards, and all other neighborhood games with the kids in the street and we didn't need our parents to organize anything. We just went out and played," he said.

Steve attended Holy Trinity grade school before embarking on his journey to Cathedral Prep. "For me, Prep was an easy choice. My parish offered me a full ride and it had a great reputation," he said. Steve distinguished himself as a member of the swimming and water polo teams. He was an expert scout, honor student, and an excellent speaker. He enjoyed chess, hunting, and hanging out with his friends.

After graduating from Prep, he continued his education at Case Institute of Technology, graduating in 1956. Steve then began working in Erie. He taught mechanical engineering, supervised a Research and Development department, and managed a tub-mill factory. Then, in 1976, Steve acquired a failing industrial sewing company in Chicago, IL. He called

the company SeamCraft, Inc. and redirected its marketing effort toward an industry niche of custom designed sewn products.

While on a business trip in Newport Beach, California, Steve met his future wife, Lois. They were married in 1996. They enjoyed traveling with one another, playing tennis, and skiing whenever they could. Steve and Lois currently live in Chicago, just two miles from the SeamCraft plant.

Steve has and always will support Cathedral Prep because "it gave me so much," he said. He heavily valued and still does value a Catholic education. He says, "Prep taught me leadership skills and loyalty to both church and state. The new pool shows Prep moving forward in the swim and water polo programs which helped shape me as a student athlete during my time at Prep." He, and classmates from The Crew of '52, sponsor a swimming pool lane at the Hagerty Family Events Center. He keeps in touch with close friends, Jim Toohey, Dick Hogan, and Dave Dahlkemper.

The most influential person in Stephen's life was his kindergarten teacher, Sister Mary Crescenta. She taught him from a young age and instilled in him the core values to be a successful leader. He kept in touch with her until her death in 2016, she was 102 years old.

Steve has always been an active voice for small manufacturers and entrepreneurs. He was vice-chairman of the board of directors of the Illinois Manufacturers Association, has served on the Illinois Governors Commission of Small Business and on the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago-Small Business Advisory Council. In addition to serving as a delegate to the bi-annual Congressional Small business summits in Washington D.C., he also served on the Board of Directors for DePaul University's School of Business.

Thank you, Stephen, for your commitment to Cathedral Prep. Congratulations on your induction into the prestigious Cathedral Preparatory School President's Hall of Fame.